

T O R R A N C E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jim Mills
Transit Administration Manager
310.618.6291
jmills@torrnet.com

CITY OF TORRANCE SADLY ANNOUNCES THE SUDDEN PASSING OF TRANSIT DIRECTOR, THOMAS WHITTLE

Torrance, Calif., May 17, 2005 – Torrance City Manager LeRoy J. Jackson sadly announces the sudden death of the City's Transit Director, Thomas Whittle. Tom passed away on Saturday, May 14, 2005 from complications due to a heart surgery at Daniel Freeman Hospital in Inglewood, Calif. He was 65 years old.

Whittle served as Assistant Director of Transit for the City of Gardena prior to joining Torrance in 1996 as Transportation Administrator. He was subsequently appointed to Fleet Services Director then Transit Director, a position he held for six years. As Director, Whittle oversaw 145 employees and successfully reorganized the Transit Department into a stand-alone department with an operating budget of \$19 million.

With his leadership, the community enjoys a comprehensive transportation service that includes the Torrance Transit bus system, Municipal Area Express (MAX) and the Torrance Community Transit, a taxi service for the senior and disabled residents.

"Tom was considered a real expert in the transit industry, and it's a real loss for us. Our heart and thoughts go out to his family and friends. We are truly saddened by this sudden loss. He will definitely be missed," said LeRoy J. Jackson, City Manager.

According to Jim Mills, Transit Administration Manager, Whittle was considered a gentle and kind man who had an easy-going way about him that endeared him to others. He was always willing to listen and educate others.

A resident of Westchester, Whittle is survived by his wife of 10 years, Janene, daughter Jean Amador (Bill), sons Steve (Maria), Ken (Christi), Ed (Filma), and seven grandchildren, Eli, Sophie, Steve Jr., Marianna, Samantha, Renee and Lauren.

Memorial services will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at Rice Mortuary located at 5310 Torrance Boulevard. A reception in the Mortuary's Lighthouse Room will immediately follow services. The family requests that all flowers be sent to Rice Mortuary.

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**20500 MADRONA AVENUE TORRANCE, CA 90503-3692
TORRANCE TRANSIT DEPARTMENT**